

Newsletter

Friday 8th November 2024 Issue 09



Passmores
ACADEMY



Photograph by: Rhoda Adesina
Year 11

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us on Thursday for the Year 7 and 8 Social Evening. The opportunity to connect is invaluable, we hope that you got much from the evening and look forward to your feedback. The QR codes are on the invite.

On Monday, we will be coming together for our annual Remembrance Assembly in the Heart Space. The uniqueness of our building enables these opportunities, a time to come together and reflect. The significance of Remembrance Day is profound, especially in light of ongoing conflicts around the world. It serves as reminder of the sacrifices made to protect democratic freedoms and way of life, but most importantly the poppy is a symbol of hope. Together we will unite to reflect on the past and hope for a more peaceful future.

Monday will also see the start of the mocks for our Year 11's and we wish them all the best. This will be a pressurised couple of weeks, but it is important that they are taken seriously. We can all learn so much from the results, but we can't learn anything if students don't try.

Natalie Christie

Principal of Passmores Academy



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TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

Monday 4th – Thursday 7th November 2024

Mimms, Joshua	Year 7	30
Lefevre-Cobby, Kai	Year 7	28
Seip, Joshua	Year 7	28
Vioara, Leo	Year 7	27
McNeilly, Millie	Year 7	26
Denkewicz, Maria	Year 7	25
Dingle, Maizie	Year 7	24
Hall, Ryan	Year 7	24
Laurino, Thomas	Year 7	24
Flintham, Eli	Year 7	23
Howe, Bailey	Year 7	23
Neal, Trai	Year 7	23
Vladimirou, Elina	Year 7	23

Mati, Alvin	Year 8	29
Evans, Tillie	Year 8	25
Jackson, Annie	Year 8	25
Brandle, Aiden	Year 8	23
Scott, Gemma	Year 8	23
Surtees, Amelia	Year 8	22
Afram, James	Year 8	21
Kennedy, Jesse	Year 8	21
Martin, Emelia	Year 8	21
Mensah, Makabee	Year 8	21

Year Group Attendance (21 st to 23 rd October 2024)	
Year 7	89.9%
Year 8	90.1%
Year 9	87.5%
Year 10	88.6%
Year 11	86.4%
All Students	88.5%

Brown, Charlie	Year 9	39
Watters, Katie	Year 9	31
Zuna, Hayden	Year 9	30
Redding, Jack	Year 9	25
Sowunmi, Ronel	Year 9	25
Parlour, Layton	Year 9	23
White, Lilly	Year 9	23
Broughton, Marnie	Year 9	22
Judge, Ella-Rose	Year 9	22
Saunders, Teddy	Year 9	22
Wickes, Lola	Year 9	22
Mushtaq, Abeeha	Year 9	22
Nicholls, Melissa	Year 9	22

Hurley, Leon	Year 10	31
Branch, Jacob	Year 10	30
Goward-Johnson, Darcie	Year 10	30
Raykov, Pavel	Year 10	30
Theophil, Dylan	Year 10	26
Wheatley, Joshua	Year 10	26
Dack, Benjamin	Year 10	25
Dorrington, Ava	Year 10	25
Man, Charlotte	Year 10	25
Sunshine, Pj	Year 10	25
Vrabie, Nick	Year 10	25

Croome, Molly	Year 11	24
Turcu, Diana	Year 11	21
Golding, Hannah	Year 11	20
Kearns, Connie	Year 11	20
Barker, Annabel	Year 11	18
Bhattarai, Dichha	Year 11	18
Clark, Liam	Year 11	18
Boyce, Jack	Year 11	17
Case-Kirk, Teddy	Year 11	17
Hummerston, Suki	Year 11	17
Maycock, Taylor-Grace	Year 11	17

PASTORAL UPDATE

Thought for the Week

This week, Thought for the Week launched our new **'Time to Talk'** sessions for **Years 7 to 10**. These sessions will take place twice each half-term and are dedicated times for students to connect and engage with each other. The aim of Time to Talk is to build relationships and create a safe space for students to foster a sense of belonging within both their tutor group and House. The sessions are also designed for older students to offer advice and guidance to younger students, helping younger peers feel heard and supported.

For **Year 11**, Thought for the Week focused on practical steps for their futures as students worked on their **personal statements** and **CVs** as they approach college application deadlines. Year 11s also had their first **coaching session** of the term with their allocated staff coach, part of a twice-per-term programme to guide them as they make decisions for post-16 opportunities.

In the News

In the News focused on the **US Presidential Election**, with discussions centering on the impact of populism and the importance of critical thinking in politics. Key messages included:

- The dangers of divisive or emotive language, often seen in populist rhetoric, and the serious consequences it can have, including political violence.
- In a democracy, political violence is never acceptable, and there are other ways to voice concerns.
- The importance of electing representatives who align with our values, rather than those who may simply be entertaining or persuasive.
- Encouraging students to fact-check, think critically, and seek information from multiple sources to understand different perspectives.

Other News

This week was buzzing with activity as we welcomed **Year 7 and 8 parents and carers** to our social evening, creating a fantastic community atmosphere. **Year 10** students also attended a **Silver Duke of Edinburgh assembly**, and a selected cohort participated in their **Rising Futures Coaching session**, providing them with guidance and inspiration for their future journeys.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

Next week's **Thought for the Week** will align with **Anti-Bullying Week**, and **In the News** will reflect on **Remembrance Day**. To build on this week's focus on the US Presidential Election, students will have the chance to put **democracy in action** by voting in the **Harlow Youth Council elections**.

Year 11 will begin their **mock exams** and continue refining their personal statements and CVs as they apply for post-16 options. And for our **Geography enthusiasts**, there's an opportunity to represent their year group and House in a **House Geography event** organized by Miss Neagus!

Here's to a productive week ahead as we continue to support each other and celebrate our learning!



Changes to the Pastoral Team

With the start of the new term, we have some updates in our Pastoral Team structure to ensure we continue providing comprehensive support for all students. Here's the updated team:

- **Senior Head of House (Pastoral System Lead):** Mr D. Shine (d.shine@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Head of Dragon House:** Miss S. Banks (s.banks@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Deputy Head of Dragon House:** Mr T. Bell (t.bell@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Head of Griffin House:** Miss E. Danaher (e.danaher@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Deputy Head of Griffin House:** Miss E. Brooking (e.brooking@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Head of Lion House:** Mr J. Webber (j.webber@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Deputy Head of Lion House:** Miss M. Brand (m.brand@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Head of Unicorn House:** Miss C. Richards (c.richards@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Deputy Head of Unicorn House:** Mr B. Paddon (b.paddon@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Deputy Head of House (Pastoral Support Team):** Mr B. Burgess (b.burgess@passmoresacademy.com)
- **Deputy Head of House (Pastoral Support Team):** Miss R. Newnham (r.newnham@passmoresacademy.com)

Each House is dedicated to supporting students in every aspect of their school life, promoting wellbeing, academic achievement, and personal growth. Please reach out to your child's tutor, Head of House or Deputy Head of House for any additional support they may need.

Thank you to our Pastoral Team for their ongoing dedication to creating a positive and supportive environment at Passmores.

Principal's Challenge Trip

The Principal's Challenge trip will be held on **Wednesday 11th December**. This week students voted in their forms for their preferred film, the outright winner was Red One.

For a pupil to get a place on the trip they need to be in the top 50 for their year group for conduct. For successful students you will receive the letter via Parent Pay on Thursday 21st November.



CAUGHT DOING GOOD 4th – 7th November 2024

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Maxwell Coleman Sophie Addison Joshua Mimms Summer Payton Leo Gregory	Rowan Blackman Lucy Snell Ethan Appleton Maisey Shurman Macie Staples	Dylan Lander Oliver Ranson Ronel Sowunmi	Jersey Harvey Kady Gregory-Dean Bella Conlin	Owaen Lawrence Alfie Davidson Harrison Houghton Miley Saint Dylan Meredith



Dear Parents/Carers, **WOOHOO... TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER IS ODD SOCKS DAY!**

WHAT IS ODD SOCKS DAY?

Odd Socks Day is part of Anti-Bullying Week! To celebrate that we are all unique, we ask that children wear odd socks to school on Tuesday 12th November. Last year over 13,000 schools took part in Odd Socks Day. Andy Day (CBeebies/CBBC) and his band Andy and the Odd Socks are partnering with the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help bring Odd Socks Day to life again this year. Have a listen to the brilliant song they have recorded especially for Anti-Bullying Week, 'Choose Respect'.

WHY IS ODD SOCKS DAY IMPORTANT?

The day sends an important message to pupils that they should be allowed to be themselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.



**Tuesday
12TH
November**

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

It's so easy! 😊 Here's what you do:

- 1. Make sure your child wears odd socks to school.**
- 2. Donate £1 (or whatever you can afford) to help the Anti-Bullying Alliance carry on important work.**
- 3. If you want to, you can share a photo or video online and feel free to add the 'Choose Respect' audio to your posts! Don't forget to tag us using #OddSocksDay #AntiBullyingWeek and tag @ABAonline and @AndyOddSock on X. Or @AntiBullyingAlliance and @AndyandtheOddSocks on Instagram.**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Every penny goes to the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help continue all their work. We can't wait to see all the odd socks on Tuesday 12th November ...

If you have any questions please ask:



 **ANTI-BULLYING
ALLIANCE**

ORGANISER

**CHOOSE
RESPECT**
ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

**Andy and
the
Odd Socks**

PARTNER

© National Children's Bureau - Registered charity No. 258825. Registered in England and Wales No. 952737. Registered office: 25 Mentmore Terrace, London, E8 3PN. A Company Limited by Guarantee.

Please note, we will not be asking students for a donation but if you would like to donate and support the important work of the Anti-Bullying alliance, please visit [Anti-Bullying Alliance](https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

SUBJECT/INFORMATION UPDATES

French

In Year 8 French, pupils have been learning all about Halloween.

Can you guess what any of these non cognates are in English?

- les araignées
- les citrouilles
- la toile d'araignée
- la sorciere
- le hibou
- la squelette

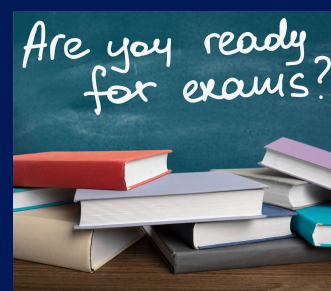


Their 'chanson préféré' was 'C'est l'halloween' by Matt Maxwell

Year 11 Mock Exams

Our first round of mocks for Year 11 begin next Monday, 11th November. There will be 2 weeks of written exams in the hall/sports hall, followed by a week of practical exams in classrooms, ending on the 2nd December. All students have been issued with personalised timetables with dates, times and seating information.

If you have not received this, please contact datateam@passmoresacademy.com.



All Year 11 students had an assembly this week outlining the expectations for all exams. This included details about where to line up, entering the exam hall and what equipment is required. It was made clear that all electronic devices such as mobile phones, air pods and all watches need to be turned off and placed in bags at the back of the exam hall. We will be doing random checks to ensure that these rules are adhered to. Conduct in the exams is very important and if the conduct is not of the highest standard, students will be given one clear warning. If issues persist, students will be removed from the exam, a phone call home will be made and the student will be issued with a same day detention to sit the exam after school, starting at 3.15pm. We would of course like to avoid this at all costs and appreciate your support as parents/carers.

Whilst mocks are often a stressful time, in the assembly I explained how important they are in terms of rehearsing routines/timings, identifying weak areas to work on afterwards and realising this is a practice run, and that failure can often be part of the journey to success provided that action is taken afterwards to address issues. I am hoping that all students are therefore able to embrace the challenge of mocks so they can strive for their best in May/June next year.

Year 11 Booster Sessions

We are encouraging all our Year 11 students to come along and take advantage of these after-school booster sessions. Please note that the staff are putting these sessions on voluntarily, so this is a FREE lesson! It would be good to see as many Year 11s as possible and if they need to know what is being delivered, they should speak to individual subject teachers.

Week 1				
Day	Subject	Aimed at or Set	Time	Room(s)
Tuesday	Textiles	11Y textiles	3.15-4.30	D103
	Geography	Whole cohort exam prep	3.15-4.00	U005
	Photography	11Y photography	3.15-4.30	D101
	Hospitality & Catering	Year 11	3.15-4.15	D104
	Hospitality & Catering	Year 11	3.15-4.15	D105
	Computer Science	Whole cohort	3.15-4.15	G105
	Maths	Grade 1-2	3.15-4.15	G005
	English	Whole cohort	3.15-4.15	Upstairs Unicorn
Wednesday	Child Development	Whole cohort exam prep	3:15-4.00	G106
	History	Grade 6+	3:15-4.00	U007
	Maths	Grade 5+	3:15-4.00	G005
	Spanish	Aiming for upto grade 5	3:15-4.00	L103
	French	Targeted students	3.15-3.45	Heart space
	Maths	Grade 6+	3:15-4.00	G003
	English	Poetry focus	3.15-4.15	U105
Thursday	Music	Composing coursework	3:15-4.00	L110
	3D Design	Whole cohort	3:15-4:15	D002/D003
	Textiles	11Y textiles	3.15-4.30	D103
	Psychology	Exam practice	3:20-4:00	U002
	Photography	11Y photography	3.15-4.30	D101
	Computer Science	Creative and Technical Enterprise	3.30-5.00	G105
	Art	Whole cohort	3.15-4.15	L104/L105
	French	Targeted students	3.15-3.45	Heart space
Friday	Maths	Aiming for Grade 4	3.20-4.20	U102
	Drama	Whole cohort	3.20-4.20	G101
	Spanish	Aiming for 5+	3:15-4.00	L103
	Psychology	Targeted students	3:20-4.00	U002
	BTEC Sport	Coursework	3:20-4.00	Y005

Week 2				
Day	Subject	Aimed at or Set	Time	Room(s)
Tuesday	Textiles	11Y textiles	3.15-4.30	D103
	Geography	Whole cohort exam prep	3.15-4.00	U005
	Photography	11Y photography	3.15-4.30	D101
	Maths	Grade 1-2	3.15-4.00	G005
	English	Whole cohort	3.15-4.15	Upstairs Unicorn
Wednesday	Child Development	Whole cohort exam prep	3:15-4.00	G106
	History	Grade 6+	3:15-4.00	U007
	Spanish	Aiming up to grade 5	3:15-4.00	L103
	French	Targeted students	3.15-3.45	Heart space
	Maths	Grade 5+	3:15-4.00	G005
	Maths	Grade 6+	3:15-4.00	G003
	English	Poetry focus	3.15-4.15	U105
Thursday	Music	Composing coursework	3.15-4.00	L110
	3D Design	Whole cohort	3:15-4:15	D002/D003
	Textiles	11Y textiles	3.15-4.30	D103
	Photography	11Y photography	3.15-4.30	D101
	Art	Whole Cohort	3.15-4.15	L104/L105
	French	Targeted students	3.15-3.45	Heart space
	Science	whole cohort for 1st HT	3:15-4:00	L003
Friday	Maths	Aiming for Grade 4	3.20-4.20	U102
	Drama	Whole cohort	3.20-4.20	G101
	Psychology	Targeted 6+	3:20-4:00	U002
	Spanish	Aimed at grade 5+	3.15-4.00	L103
	BTEC Sport	Coursework	3.20-4.00	Y005

SPORTS/PE UPDATES

Netball

On Tuesday, our Year 7 netball team took a road trip to Braintree to take on a strong Notley High squad. Despite the loss, the team fought until the end with energy levels high and contesting every ball right up until the final whistle.

The teamwork, determination and effort these girls showed on the court was incredible and these are great foundations to make a successful team in the future.

Keep up the good work!



Football



The Year 8 & 9 girls football started off the Harlow District tournament this week with 2 wins over St. Marks and Stewards.

They played some fantastic free flowing football and scored some superbly worked goals too.

A fantastic start and we hope the Year 7s carry this on next week.

CAREERS NEWS

Year 11 Post 16 Open Events:

Braintree College – Saturday 9th November - 10am - 1pm.

Chelmsford College – Wednesday 13th November - 6pm - 8.30pm.

Birchwood High 6th Form – Thursday 14th November - 4pm - 7.30pm.

Presdales 6th Form – Thursday 14th November - 6pm - 8pm.

Sir Frederick Gibberd 6th Form – Saturday 16th November - 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Writtle College – Saturday 16th November.



GSK Apprenticeships at Ware

GSK are holding an Apprenticeship Engineering & Manufacturing webinar on November 7th, 3pm - 4pm to share information about these opportunities. This is for Level 3 apprenticeships that are open from GCSE level. Their apprenticeship application process will open later in November. Scan the QR code on the attached to register for the event.



Ahead Together

Considering a career in Engineering or Manufacturing, Join us on the 7th of November 3pm – 4pm GMT

Discover how you can kickstart your career **after secondary school** by doing an advanced apprenticeship at GSK.



An apprenticeship is a great alternative to the traditional routes taken after GCSE'S, and we are hosting this Webinar for all students who want to learn more about what it means to do an apprenticeship, and the various options that are accessible.

Join our Webinar on the 7th of November and discover more about the apprenticeships that we offer if you are pursuing a career in electrical or mechanical engineering, and manufacturing

Register your interest for the webinar by scanning the QR code and completing the survey:



#GSKEarlyCareers

Free Online Careers Webinars

InvestIN are offering free online workshops to give students a taster of their dream career, delivered by industry professionals. These will be live from the 19th -21st November covering 5 competitive industries: Psychology, Creative Arts, Medicine, Law and Banking. They will run from 6pm.

You can find out more on [Free Events – InvestIN Education](#) and the poster on the next page...

FREE STUDENT EVENT SERIES

Hear from Industry Professionals

INVESTIN

Details Below



We are excited to invite you to our latest event series, "Breaking into Your Future Career". Over six webinars, you will explore potential career paths and hear directly from industry professionals what you can do now to set yourself up for success.

This series is perfect for you if you already have a career path in mind and want to learn more about it. It's also a fantastic starting point if you're still exploring your options, and want to discover new possibilities

“ Thank you for the extremely informative webinar today! It is always nice to hear the personal experiences and advice from passionate individuals.
- Student Event Attendee ”



STUDENT EVENT CALENDAR

Each webinar takes place at 6 pm (UK time). If you are unable to attend live we would still recommend registering in order to receive the event recording and relevant resources.

TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

BREAKING INTO THE
CREATIVE ARTS

BREAKING INTO
PSYCHOLOGY

WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

BREAKING INTO
MEDICINE

BREAKING INTO
BANKING

THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

BREAKING INTO
LAW

BREAKING INTO
ENGINEERING

Sign Up Now

Sixth Form & College Open Dates 2024/2025

Colleges & Sixth Forms	Contact No.	Open Date
The Bishop's Stortford High School www.tbshs.org	01279 868686	Weds 6 th Nov
Birchwood School, Bishop's Stortford www.birchwoodonline.co.uk	01279 655936	Thurs 14 th Nov 4pm-7.30pm
BMAT STEM Academy www.bmatstemacademy.org	01279 621570	TBA
The College at Braintree (Now part of Colchester Institute) www.colchester.ac.uk	01206 814000	Sat 9 th Nov 10.00-1.00
Cambridge Regional College www.camre.ac.uk	01223 418200	Sat 16 th Nov 9.30-12.30 Sat 25 th Jan 10-12.30 Thurs 24 th April 4.30-7.00
Capel Manor College, Enfield www.capel.ac.uk	08456 122122	Tues 19 th Nov 5.30-7pm
Chelmsford College www.chelmsford-college.ac.uk	01245 265611	Weds 13 th Nov 6-8.30 Weds 5 th Feb 6-8.30
New City College (Epping Forest), www.ncclondon.ac.uk	0208 508 8311	Sat 23 rd Nov 10-2.00
Epping St Johns 6 th Form www.eppingstjohnsschool.org/	01992 573028	Weds 20 th Nov 6-8pm
F2 Academy www.vluk.org/course-location/f2academy/	07525 495818	TBA
Fashion Retail Academy www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk	0207 3072345	Sat 30 th Nov
Harlow College www.harlow-college.ac.uk	01279 868000	Tues 11 th Feb 5.00-8.00 Weds 30 th April 5.00-8.00

Sixth Form & College Open Dates 2024/2025

Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge www.hrsfc.ac.uk	01223 247251	TBA
Helena Romanes School, Great Dunmow www.helena-roman.essex.sch.uk	01371 872560	Weds 13 th Nov 5.30-8.00
Hertford Regional College www.hertreg.ac.uk	01992 411400	Thurs 21 st Nov 5.30-8.00 Tues 4 th Feb 5.30-8.00
Herts & Essex High School, Bishop's Stortford www.hertsandessex.herts.sch.uk	01279 654127	Tues 12 th Nov 5.30-8.30pm
Hockerill Anglo-European School, Bishop's Stortford www.hockerill.herts.sch.uk	01279 658451	Sat 23 rd Nov
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge www.longroad.ac.uk	01223 631100	Summer 2025
Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth www.leventhorpe.net	01279 836633	Tues 5 th Nov 6.00-9.00
Joyce Frankland Academy (Formerly Newport) www.jfan.org.uk	01799 540237	Weds 16 th Oct
Presdales Sixth Form www.presdales.herts.sch.uk	01920 462210	Thurs 14 th Nov 6-8pm
Sir Frederick Gibberd www.sirfrederickgibberdcollege.org	01279 307235 (c/o Burnt Mill Academy)	Sat 16 th Nov 9.30-12.30
St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford www.stmarys.net	01279 654901	Thurs 7 th Nov 6-8.30pm
Stansted Airport College www.harlow-college.ac.uk	01799 513030	Thurs 23 rd Jan Weds 7 th May
Writtle College www.writtle.ac.uk	01245 424200	Sat 16 th Nov

Please contact the institutions to check details and times before attending. Also, be advised that most ask for you to book a place for these events online.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

FOP's

Last year Friends of Passmores signed up to EasyFundraising... the easiest way to raise money for our school!

Easyfundraising partners - with over 7,500 brands will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice and it won't cost you any extra as the cost is covered by the brand!

If you're shopping in the Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales, make sure you use #easyfundraising. Over 8,000 retailers will donate, so you can raise a FREE donation for Friends of Passmores every time you grab a bargain, whether that's gadgets, electricals, games consoles, toys, clothes, gifts or anything else!

We have raised nearly £200 so far but we would love more of you to join.

Please follow this link to sign up.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-passmores> or scan the QR code



A red banner with white stars and the EasyFundraising logo. The text reads: "It's the most wonderful time to support us". Below this, it says "Raise free donations while you pick up Christmas gifts online". At the bottom, it says "Shop with thousands of retailers" and lists various retailers in circular icons: ebay, Nike, TESCO, Etsy, Argos, JOHN LEWIS, M&S, moonpig, GROUPON, Boots, Booking.com, and +8,000 other retailers.

A black banner with a large, colorful, starburst-shaped percentage sign in the center. The text reads: "Turn Black Friday into Give Back Friday". Below this, it says "Raise donations for us when you shop the sales". At the bottom, it says "[Moments] that make it count" and "RAISE A DONATION".



*❄️ Friends of Passmores are looking
for stall holders for our*

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Please email
fop@passmoresacademy.com



Friday 6th December
6:30-8:30pm
Harlow

We would like to send out a plea for any tombola donations, we are looking for any small gifts or vouchers that can be won during the tombola at the Christmas Market.

Every year has been a huge success making a large amount of money for the school, but we are lacking in prizes this year and need your help. So please think of us while out shopping, the 'last time to buy at 90% off' may be perfect for our tombola stall.

Thank you!



Flu Vaccinations

You should have received a parent mail regarding the annual flu vaccinations that will be taking place on **Thursday 14th November**. If you wish to consent to your child having the immunisation, please ensure you complete the form provided in the email, by Monday 11th November; the team providing the service cannot guarantee that any forms submitted after this date will be accepted.

For any queries, or for help completing the form, you can contact the team on 0300 790 0597 option 1.



The KS3 disco will be taking place after half term on **Thursday 21st November** from **6pm to 8pm**. Tickets cost £3 and can be paid through the Parent Pay app. Check your emails for a letter with all the details...

Join our community online!



We have social media accounts on **Instagram, Facebook & YouTube** to celebrate all that goes on in our school community!

You can find all the accounts and follow along here;

https://linktr.ee/Passmores_academy



ABSENCE LINE

If you need to report a student absence, please ensure you are following the correct procedure and are calling the absence line: **01279 770877**.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 11 th November – Friday 22 nd November 2024	Year 11 Mock Exams
Friday 29 TH November 2024	INSET DAY (3)
Friday 6 th December 2024	Friends of Passmores - Christmas Market
Thursday 12 th December 2024	Passmores Christmas Concert – 7:00pm
Friday 20 th December 2024	Early Closure for Students – 12:30pm
Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January 2025	Christmas Holiday
Monday 6 th January 2025	INSET DAY (4)
Tuesday 7 th January 2025	Spring Term 1 Begins

TEACHarlow

Interested in becoming a primary or secondary teacher?
Contact Gareth Walsh on g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com



Passmores Academy

Christmas

Concert

Thursday 12th
December

Doors open 6:30pm

Curtain 7:00pm

Tickets are available from

ParentPay

£3 adults

£1 students/OAPs

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TikTok is a free-to-use social media platform that lets people watch and share short videos (of up to ten minutes in length). Its memes, trends, and celebrity cameos have made it enormously popular with an estimated 1 billion users worldwide – but its algorithm that surfaces videos based on users' activity can make the app seriously addictive.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users that someone follows, "For You" is a collection based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will probably be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially show something unsuitable. What's worse, if they engage with this content, more will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the volume of uploads means that they aren't manually monitored.

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CONSENSUS

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal, or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With over 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over 16s (or young people using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards to other users for videos they've created, retaining their monetary value. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £52. TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive. Recent figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time on it. In 2024, UK children have spent an average of 127 minutes per day on TikTok – twice as much as in 2020 – according to parental controls company Qustodio. This compulsive usage can interfere with children's sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short-form videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but with Ofcom reporting that nearly a third of children aged 12-15 use TikTok as a news source, you should be wary of extremist material.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers, and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure that they understand not to share any identifying personal information, and to talk to a trusted adult if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework, or skipping meals.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, Techradar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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